October 20, 2016

University of Washington Committee on the Safety of Minors
Ed Taylor, Vice Provost and Dean, Undergraduate Academic Affairs (Co-Chair)
Elizabeth Cherry, Associate Vice Provost, Compliance and Risk Services (Co-Chair)
Alissa Ackerman, Associate Professor, Social Work, UW Tacoma
Cheryl Cameron, Vice Provost for Academic Personnel, Office of the Provost
Bonnie Conley, Director, Social Work, Harborview Medical Center
Ann O’Doherty, Director, Danforth Educational Leadership Program, College of Education
Susan Jeffords, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, UW Bothell
Nina Keaney, Director of Administration, Intercollegiate Athletics
Mindy Kornberg, Vice President, Human Resources
Steve Rittereiser, Major, UW Police Department
Denzil Suite, Vice President for Student Life

Dear Colleagues:

I am writing to appoint you as a member of the University of Washington Committee on the Safety of Minors. This tri-campus committee was originally launched in 2012 and successfully accomplished several action items, including the creation of APS 11.8, Reporting Suspected Child Abuse, requiring UW employees and volunteers to report suspected child abuse and neglect, in accordance with RCW 24.66; and a recommendation to implement an Office for Youth Programs Development and Support, which was approved and funded, effective March 2016. The further development of institutional policies and best practices was a priority item in the April 2016 health and safety compliance report to the Regents, and exciting work is underway to support our academic mission in endeavors that intersect with youth in our community.

In the 2016-17 year, I would like the committee to make policy recommendations that will operationalize institutional goals and objectives regarding the three topics below:

1. Consider and make recommendations on required background checks for faculty, staff, and volunteers of programs and activities involving minors, including identifying any required changes in UW policies, procedures, and practices;

2. Review and update, as necessary, APS 11.8, Reporting Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect, and any related training, outreach, and monitoring mechanisms;

3. Consider and make recommendations on establishing a central registry of UW youth-serving programs and activities and develop service concepts for such a registry.

Youth protection policies are in the development stage for universities nationally, and I believe that we have a unique opportunity to develop an innovative approach that can serve as a national model for youth protection.
Elizabeth Cherry and Ed Taylor will co-chair the committee. The Attorney General’s Office is available to provide legal advice as necessary for the committee’s work. Joanne Matson will be in touch with you soon to schedule the first meeting of the committee for late autumn. If you prefer to send a designee to participate in the committee on your behalf, please inform Joanne. A work plan for the year will be developed at the first meeting. Please provide me with a report on the Committee’s accomplishments and recommendations by June 9, 2017.

Thank you in advance for your willingness to serve on this important committee, which will help carry out the University’s commitment to safe, healthy environments for all our students, staff, faculty, and visitors.

Sincerely,

Gerald J. Baldasty  
Provost and Executive Vice President  
Professor, Department of Communication

cc: Susan Freccia, Director of Strategic Initiatives, Compliance and Risk Services  
Caroline Shelton, Director, Office for Youth Programs Development and Support, Undergraduate Academic Affairs